

63rd OEP CATEGORY DESCRIPTION GUIDE

1 Record Of The Year

Singles or Tracks Only

For commercially released singles or tracks of new vocal or instrumental recordings. Tracks from a previous year's album may be entered provided the track was not entered the previous year and provided the album did not win a GRAMMY. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), recording engineer(s) and/or mixer(s) and mastering engineer(s) if other than the artist.

NOTE: Associate producers and executive producers are not eligible.

2 Album Of The Year

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental recordings. Award to artist(s) and to featured artist(s), songwriter(s) of new material, producer(s), recording engineer(s), mixer(s) and mastering engineer(s) credited with at least 33% playing time of the album, if other than Artist.

NOTE: Associate producers and executive producers are not eligible. Albums of previously released recordings (reissues, compilations of old recordings and "Best Of" packages) are not eligible.

3 Song Of The Year

Singles or Tracks Only

Songs entered for consideration in this category should represent the best achievement in songwriting. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.

A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.

4 Best New Artist

Albums, Singles or Tracks

This category recognizes an artist whose eligibility-year release(s) achieved a breakthrough into the public consciousness and notably impacted the musical landscape.

In adjudicating this category, the primary element to consider is the artist's performance. If the artist wrote most or all of the songs, this may be a secondary consideration. Production elements of the recording should not be considered.

- Minimum releases to meet eligibility: five singles/tracks or one album.
- No specified maximum number of releases. Screening committees will determine whether the artist had attained a breakthrough or prominence prior to the eligibility year.
- An artist may not enter into this category more than three times, including as a performing member of an established group.

The integrity of an album will be respected. Singles/tracks that are part of an album release will not be counted separately. However, each release of 10 singles/tracks not associated with an album will be considered an album equivalent and count toward the maximum as such.

Any recording that would have been eligible for GRAMMY consideration will count toward the minimum/maximum, including independent releases and mixtapes that meet Academy distribution criteria and EPs of five or more different songs that meet Academy album criteria. An artist may not enter into this category more than three times, including as a performing member of an established group.

- Solo artists and established duos and groups.
- Solo artists formerly with duos/groups, provided the duo/group had not attained prominence.
- New established duos/groups consisting of former solo artists or former group members, provided that none of the previous solo artists nor the duo/group had attained prominence.
- New recording artists who previously achieved recognition in a different discipline, such as songwriters, politicians, actors, astronauts, etc.

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Any artist who had achieved a breakthrough in a prior eligibility year.
- Any artist with a previous GRAMMY nomination as a performer, including a nomination as an established member of a nominated group.

Exception: If an artist is nominated (but does not win) for the release of a single or as a featured artist or collaborator on a compilation or another artist's album before the artist has released at least five singles or an entire album (and becomes eligible in this category for the first time), the artist may enter this category in the eligibility year during which the artist's fifth single/track or first album is released.

- An artist with a previous songwriting GRAMMY nomination, if the nominated song had gained its prominence through a performance by the songwriter as the primary artist.

Exception: If an artist received the nomination (but does not win) for writing a song that had gained its prominence through a performance by the songwriter as the primary artist before the artist has released at least five singles or an entire album (and becomes eligible in this category for the first time), the artist may enter this category in the eligibility year during which the artist's fifth single/track or first album is released.

- Collaborations involving two or more individuals who are not an established group.
- Artists who have been credited only as featured artists.
- Choirs, choruses and large band ensembles (16 or more members).
- Non-music-performing video performers (e.g., dancers, actors).
- Musical craftspeople (songwriters, engineers, producers, art directors, remixers, notes writers, etc.).
- Any person active in public life whose entered recording was not intended to be the subject of a commercial release.
- A group carrying on the name and tradition of a previous group that would be ineligible due to number of recordings or prior breakthrough, even if the personnel changes.
- A group that would be ineligible due to number of recordings or prior breakthrough, even if it changes its name.

*NOTE: The word "artist" is used inclusively to signify performing solo artists as well as established performing duos and groups.

5 Best Pop Solo Performance

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes artistic excellence in a solo vocal or instrumental pop performance with or without accompaniment.

- 6 Best Pop Duo/Group Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes artistic excellence in a duo, group, or collaborative vocal or instrumental pop performance. Recordings on which a group receives artist billing are eligible here, even when the vocal features only one member of the group. The entire group or collaborative performance, rather than the presence of a lead vocal performance, determines category eligibility.
- 7 Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album** **Albums Only**
 This category is for performances of a type and style of song that cannot properly be intermingled with present forms of pop music. This includes older forms of traditional pop such as the Great American Songbook, created by the Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley songwriters of the period between the Twenties and the end of World War II, as well as cabaret/ musical theater style songs and previous forms of contemporary pop. This would also include contemporary pop songs performed in traditional pop style — the term “traditional” being a reference, equally, to the style of the composition, vocal styling and the instrumental arrangement, without regard to the age of the material.
- 8 Best Pop Vocal Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes artistic excellence in pop vocal albums.
- 9 Best Dance Recording** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes artistic excellence in dance/electronic recordings. This includes established dance recording genres as well as emerging dance genres to accurately reflect the current trends in dance music. The category is open to recordings specifically and originally targeted to the dance community.
- Dance remixes are eligible in the Best Remixed Recording category only and may not be entered in Best Dance Recording.
- 10 Best Dance/Electronic Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in dance/electronic music albums with significant electronic-based instrumentation and a rhythmic dance beat. The category includes both emerging and established dance recording genres in order to accurately reflect the current trends in dance music.
- Albums of remixes are not eligible; however, remixes may be entered in Best Remixed Recording.
- 11 Best Contemporary Instrumental Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing approximately 51% or more playing time of instrumental material. For albums containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded (previously unreleased) music.
- NOTE: Contemporary instrumental music embraces a variety of musical genres. The album concept and production should emphasize instrumental performance, arrangement and/or melodic content. This music should contain contemporary stylistic elements, setting it apart from well-established instrumental styles.
- 12 Best Rock Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental solo, duo/group or collaborative rock recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 13 Best Metal Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental solo, duo/group or collaborative metal recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 14 Best Rock Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 Songs entered for consideration in this category should represent the best achievement in songwriting across the spectrum of rock music, including metal. Only the merits of the song itself are to be considered. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.
- A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.
- 15 Best Rock Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes artistic excellence in albums across the spectrum of rock music.

- 16 Best Alternative Music Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes artistic excellence in alternative music albums. Alternative music may be defined as a genre of music that embraces attributes of progression and innovation in both the music and attitudes associated with it. It is often a less intense version of rock or a more intense version of pop and is typically regarded as more original, eclectic, or musically challenging. It may embrace a variety of sub-genres or any hybrids thereof and may include recordings that do not fit into other genre categories.
- 17 Best R&B Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental R&B recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 18 Best Traditional R&B Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in traditional R&B performance and is intended for recordings that may incorporate additional elements associated with blues, gospel and jazz. Traditional R&B may include such styles as soul, funk, neo-soul, and smooth jazz.
- 19 Best R&B Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in R&B songwriting that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of R&B music style and culture. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.
- A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.
- 20 Best Progressive R&B Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in albums of contemporary, R&B-derived performances that include the more contemporary elements of R&B and may include samples and elements of hip-hop, rap, dance, and electronic music. Eligible albums may also incorporate production elements found in urban pop, urban Euro-pop, urban rock and urban alternative.
- 21 Best R&B Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new R&B recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 22 Best Rap Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new rap recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 23 Best Melodic Rap Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category is intended to recognize performances with strong foundations in either hip-hop/rap or R&B. Both the song and melody should be considered to fit these criteria to be accepted in this category. For a solo or collaborative performance containing both elements of R&B melodies and rap. In the case of a collaboration of artists who do not usually perform together, the collaborative artist(s) should be credited and recognized as a featured artist(s).
- 24 Best Rap Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in rap music songwriting that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of rap music style and culture. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.
- A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.
- 25 Best Rap Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new rap recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

26 Best Country Solo Performance

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes country music recordings, both vocal and instrumental, which utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of country music style and culture. The intent is to recognize country music that remains reminiscent of its culture's legacy while also engaging contemporary forms that "push the boundaries" but still are relevant in the collective country music culture.

For new vocal or instrumental solo country recordings. Award to the artist(s).

27 Best Country Duo/Group Performance

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes country music recordings, both vocal and instrumental, which utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of country music style and culture. The intent is to recognize country music that remains reminiscent of its culture's legacy while also engaging contemporary forms that "push the boundaries" but still are relevant in the collective country music culture.

This category recognizes excellence in recordings of country music performance by established duos or groups, or collaborations (with significant performance by both/all collaborative artist(s) beyond accompaniment).

Recordings on which a group receives artist billing are eligible here, even when the vocal features only one member of the group. The entire group or collaborative performance, rather than the presence of a lead vocal performance, determines category eligibility.

28 Best Country Song

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes country music recordings which utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of country music style and culture. The intent is to recognize country music that remains reminiscent of its culture's legacy while also engaging contemporary forms that "push the boundaries" but still are relevant in the collective country music culture.

This category recognizes excellence in country music songwriting. Songs which contain samples or interpolations are eligible.

A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.

29 Best Country Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new country recordings. This category recognizes country music recordings, both vocal and instrumental, which utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of country music style and culture. The intent is to recognize country music that remains reminiscent of its culture's legacy while also engaging contemporary forms that "push the boundaries" but still are relevant in the collective country music culture.

Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

30 Best New Age Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums of New Age recordings. New Age music is generally ambient, exploratory, and journey-like in nature, welcoming dissonance and consonance alike. It represents a widening field in which various elements and influences from pop, jazz, classical, folk, downtempo, ambient, atmospheric, electronic, and avant-garde idioms may combine to serve the intention of wellness and introspection. By merit of its historical roots, New Age Music may include sacred as well as secular components; however, recordings with sacred content or intent are generally non-sectarian or universal in nature.

Structurally, New Age compositions emphasize texture and space. Instrumentally, the music can contain synthesized and acoustic instruments. Rhythmically, the music can range from meterless to repetitive 4/4 beats. Melodically and harmonically, the composition works to serve the feel and intent.

The category includes environmental recordings (where the recordist would be considered the artist). Seasonal/holiday recordings are not eligible in this category.

31 Best Improvised Jazz Solo

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes improvised jazz solos (including vocal jazz solos) of substantive content. It is not for embellishments or fills, written-out solos, or solos that demonstrate some jazz flavoring but that belong in the Pop or R&B fields. Intent and content are the over-riding criteria in determining eligibility of an improved jazz solo.

The improvised jazz solo performances may be taken from an instrumental or vocal single or track. The track must be from an album released in the current eligibility year but may be from an album in another genre field. The soloist need not be the group leader or top-billed artist on the track. Two performers on one recording who solo equally or near-equally may be eligible as one entry at the discretion of the Academy.

Entries in this category are limited to two per artist and may only be made by the soloist or the soloist's representative (management or soloist's primary record label).

32 Best Jazz Vocal Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums of vocal jazz performance. Jazz elements may include inflection, phrasing, arrangements, repertoire, and/or improvisatory variations. The vocal performances, vocal styling and interpretation must be jazz in content (and not merely performances with some jazz flavoring or those that may use jazz musicians for backup). Pop, R&B or other genre styles of vocal performance, even those by well-established jazz artists, are not eligible.

The vocal performance may be by a solo performer, duo, group (including large jazz vocal ensembles) or collaboration and may be in any language (including Portuguese and Spanish).

If a vocalist(s) and an instrumentalist(s) are billed equally, both (or all) may be eligible for a GRAMMY. This determination, as with cases in which the co-billing involves a band as a whole, will be at the discretion of the Academy.

An entire album entered in the Jazz Vocal category may not be entered again in a Jazz Instrumental category, even if the artist is shifted. If the vocalist(s) and instrumentalist(s) are billed equally, the Academy will determine the appropriate category based on number of vocal tracks versus instrumental tracks; or, if the number of tracks is equal, the total playing time of the vocal versus instrumental tracks.

33 Best Jazz Instrumental Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums by individuals or groups generally thought of as "small jazz groups," typically from one to eight musicians performing jazz music, including straight-ahead jazz and contemporary jazz.

This category may also include albums with larger back-up ensembles that provide coloring and background to what is essentially a small group performance. The extent of interaction between the soloist(s) and the large ensemble employed in the arrangements is the deciding factor for eligibility in those cases. The size of the ensemble is not determinative as much as the instrumental make-up and how the music is scored.

34 Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence on albums of large jazz ensemble performance, primarily recordings with a "big band sound." Other large ensemble or orchestral jazz recordings where a number of musicians come together, most commonly to play arrangements featuring the orchestrational possibilities of a large ensemble of musicians are eligible. In some instances, arrangements may be less structured (so-called "hear arrangements") that nonetheless demonstrate the orchestration possibilities of a large ensemble setting.

Generally, these ensembles must contain nine or more members to be eligible in this category (excluding the conductor or bandleader). The ensembles may be billed as ensembles or under the name of a solo artist who is the featured band or orchestra leader.

Recordings that use synthesizers to imitate the sound of a large jazz ensemble are not eligible in the category.

Large jazz vocal ensemble albums must be entered in Best Jazz Vocal Album.

35 Best Latin Jazz Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in Latin Jazz albums by ensembles of any size that represent the blending of jazz with Latin and Iberian-American, Brazilian, and Argentinian tango music.

- 36 Best Gospel Performance/Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in a solo, duo, group or collaborative vocal performance and in songwriting (if the song is new) of a traditional Christian, roots gospel or contemporary gospel recording.
- 37 Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in a solo, duo, group or collaborative vocal performance and in songwriting (if the song is new) of a contemporary Christian pop, rap/hiphop, Latin or rock music recording.
- 38 Best Gospel Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in a solo, duo, group or collaborative performance of traditional or contemporary/R&B gospel music recordings. Recordings of sermons are eligible in Best Spoken Word Album.
- For choir or chorus albums, the recognition goes to the choir director or choral director at the discretion of the Academy.
- 39 Best Contemporary Christian Music Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in a solo, duo, group or collaborative performance of Contemporary Christian Music, including pop, rap/hip-hop, Latin, and rock. Recordings of sermons are eligible in Best Spoken Word Album.
- 40 Best Roots Gospel Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in a solo, duo, group or collaborative performance of traditional/roots gospel music, including country, Southern gospel, bluegrass, and Americana. Recordings of sermons are eligible in Best Spoken Word Album.
- 41 Best Latin Pop or Urban Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in Latin music recordings that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of Latin pop and urban music styles and culture. The category includes recordings from balladeers and commercial Latin music and is not limited to any one region. It is inclusive of music known as international sound and romantic ballad.
- Albums with lyrics that are greater than 50% in Spanish or albums with music content that is primarily of a Latin genre in style (excluding Brazilian music) are eligible.
- 42 Best Latin Rock or Alternative Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in Latin rock, or alternative music recordings that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of the Latin music style and culture.
- Albums with lyrics that are greater than 50% in Spanish or albums with music content that is primarily of a Latin genre in style (excluding Brazilian music) are eligible.
- 43 Best Regional Mexican Music Album (Including Tejano)** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in recordings of the regional music of Mexico, including banda, norteño, corridos, gruperos, mariachi, rancheros, and huapango, as well as Tejano music. Eligible albums utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of regional Mexican and Tejano music styles and cultures.
- Albums with lyrics that are greater than 50% in Spanish or albums with music content that is primarily of a traditional Mexican music genre in style are eligible. The musical style is determinative not the ethnicity of the performer(s).
- 44 Best Tropical Latin Album** **Albums Only**
 This category recognizes excellence in tropical Latin music recordings, including traditional and contemporary tropical styles like salsa, merengue, vallenato, cumbia, and bachata. Albums that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of tropical Latin music style and culture are eligible. This category houses all tropical genres, not just idioms rooted in history, heritage or tradition.
- Albums with lyrics that are greater than 50% in Spanish or albums with music content that is primarily of a Latin genre in style (excluding Brazilian music) are eligible.

- 45 Best American Roots Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental American Roots recordings by solo artists, duos/groups, or collaborations. This is for performances in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots. Award to the artist(s).
- 46 Best American Roots Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category is for original songs in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including Americana, bluegrass, traditional blues, contemporary blues, folk or regional roots. A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled or interpolated material.
- 47 Best Americana Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental Americana recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category recognizes recordings of contemporary music that incorporate elements of various American roots music and vocal styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound that lives in a world apart from the pure forms of the genres upon which it may draw. While acoustic instruments are often present and vital, Americana often uses a full electric band.
- 48 Best Bluegrass Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental bluegrass recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category recognizes bluegrass recordings performed in vocal or instrumental styles, that utilize bluegrass acoustic instrumentation (variations of fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass and Dobro) and singing style, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.
- 49 Best Traditional Blues Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental traditional blues recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- This category includes blues recordings with traditional blues song structures, harmonic structures and rhythms, including traditional blues instruments such as acoustic and electric guitar, piano, organ, harmonica, horns, acoustic and electric bass and drums. Includes sub-genres such as Delta Blues, Piedmont Blues, Jump/Swing Blues, Chicago Blues, and Classic/Southern Soul.
- 50 Best Contemporary Blues Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental contemporary blues recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- This category includes blues recordings that vary from traditional blues song and harmonic structures. May employ non-traditional blues rhythms such as funk, hip-hop, reggae and rock. May include traditional and non-traditional blues instruments, as well as contemporary production techniques.
- 51 Best Folk Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental folk recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category recognizes folk recordings in modern and/or traditional vocal and instrumental styles, as well as original material by artists who utilize traditional and/or modern folk elements, sounds and instrumental techniques as the basis for their recordings. Folk music is primarily but not exclusively acoustic, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

52 Best Regional Roots Music Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental regional roots music recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: This category recognizes recordings of regional roots styles of music, including Cajun, Hawaiian, Native American, Second Line brass band, polka, zydeco and others, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach. Native American music is defined as recordings that contain traditional and contemporary Native American music elements within composition and arrangement. On Hawaiian music recordings, the Hawaiian language must be used in 51% or more of the vocal tracks on the album and eligibility will be determined by the screening committee.

53 Best Reggae Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new reggae recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: Includes roots reggae, dancehall and ska music.

54 Best World Music Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums of world music, including recordings of international non-Western classical music, international non-American and non British traditional folk music, international cross-cultural music based on the previously mentioned genres as well as international recordings of world beat, world jazz (with a higher percentage of world than jazz music), world pop, and cross-cultural music.

Albums of reggae, Latin or European pop music are not eligible in this category and should be entered in other categories as appropriate.

55 Best Children's Music Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in children's music recordings that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of children's music. These albums must be created and intended specifically for children.

All children's music recordings belong in this category, even those with a musical style rooted in Latin music, gospel, rock, rap, etc. The word "children" is used broadly, with no specific age range defined.

Children's spoken word albums are eligible in Best Spoken Word Album. Soundtrack albums of children's movies are eligible in Best Compilation Soundtrack For Visual Media.

56 Best Spoken Word Album (Includes Poetry, Audio Books & Storytelling)

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in spoken work albums. Albums of spoken word poetry, audiobooks, storytelling, non-musical drama, sermons, narrations with or without music collaboration or accompaniment, and instructional recordings are eligible. (If the recording has musical accompaniment but is primarily spoken word, the narrator would be eligible while the musical accompanist(s) may be identified in parenthesis.)

Recordings that accompany children's picture books are eligible if the recorded content is nonrepetitive and otherwise meets the requirements for an album entry.

Recordings that feature song lyrics that are spoken or rapped are eligible in the appropriate genre categories.

Incidental talk or conversation in a studio used as an accent to a musical recording does not constitute a spoken word performance. Compilations or excerpts of previously broadcast radio or television shows, albums of sound effects, and albums of environmental recordings are not eligible in this category.

57 Best Comedy Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in comedy recordings, including spoken word stand-up comedy and musical/novelty recordings. New comedy performance albums, whether recorded in a studio or live, and whether recorded in an audio only format or as part of a video project are eligible. As are recordings that are compilations/excerpts from a current year radio or television program, or new recordings of comedy performance first aired on television within five years of the release date.

Recordings that are compilations/excerpts from non-current year broadcast radio or television programs, audiobooks (even if considered humorous), albums of sound effects, and albums of environmental recordings are not eligible in Best Comedy Album and may be entered in other categories as appropriate.

58 Best Musical Theater Album

Albums Only

This category is for recordings of the score of a musical theater work created to support an underlying dramatic intention or theme. This award honors excellence in the performance(s) in and production of musical theater recordings. Elements of the corresponding stage production should not be considered in evaluating the recording.

Recordings of revues that reflect a dramatic theme, including those consisting of songs from the score of a specific musical theater work and those with scores comprised of pre-existing material re-purposed for said revue are also eligible.

Eligible entries must be recordings of work created to support an underlying dramatic intention or theme. (Elements of the corresponding stage production should not be considered in evaluating the recording.)

Benefit/tribute concerts featuring performances of various musical show songs by a specific songwriter and recordings of concert tours are not eligible. Non-musical theater performance albums are likewise not eligible in this category (They may be eligible in Best Comedy Album or Best Spoken Word Album). Archival material whether or not previously released is not eligible here. (Albums containing archival material may be eligible in Best Historical Album.)

Award to: Album Producer(s); Lyricist(s) and Composer(s) of at least 51% of the new score are eligible for an award if they have written and/or composed a new score which comprises 51% or more playing time of the album; Award to as many as four (4) Principal Vocalist(s) with significant contributing performance(s), defined as a lead performance by a featured vocalist OR Winner Certificates to all vocalists on the recording of an "ensemble-driven piece," defined as one in which performers have comparable musical and dramatic participation in the recording (in contrast to a musical theater work with principals and a chorus).

59 Best Compilation Soundtrack For Visual Media

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in soundtrack compilation albums comprised of predominantly song or non-original instrumental compositions, created specifically for or as a companion to, a current legitimate motion picture, television show or series, video game or other visual media production. Albums in this category must be greater than 50% song compilation and may include previously released (not newly recorded) material.

At least two-thirds of the musical tracks on the album must have been used in the motion picture, television show or series, video game, or other visual media production.

An eligible soundtrack album for a documentary, biopic, or a work that combines the two forms, must contain 50% or more of newly recorded music. Category placement will be determined by the predominant nature of the newly recorded music—song or score—featured in the visual medium, and the visual medium must also predominantly feature new recordings.

Greater than 50% of the playing time on an otherwise eligible television soundtrack must be derived from new episodes or new programming that airs during the GRAMMY eligibility year for which it is entered.

Configurations which do not meet the general eligibility guidelines (DVDs or videogames that contain music but are not available as stand-alone audio streams/releases) are not eligible.

Live concert films, live or filmed stage shows, musical/variety television shows, musical documentaries in which the primary focus is live performance or which are primarily "making of" works, and soundtrack albums that are greatest hits/career retrospective are not eligible.

60 Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in score soundtracks albums. These are albums comprised predominantly of original score and created specifically for, or as a companion to, a current legitimate motion picture, television show or series, video game, or other visual media.

At least two-thirds of the musical tracks on the album must have been used in the motion picture, television show or series, or video game. Greater than 50% of the music on an otherwise eligible television soundtrack must be derived from new episodes or new programming that airs during the GRAMMY eligibility year for which it is entered .

Eligible orchestrations may include vocal coloring (not songs) when used in the overall texture of the orchestra, such as choral groups or solo voices with or without words or syllables.

Soundtracks of live concert films, live or filmed stage shows, musical/variety television shows, and musical documentaries in which the primary focus is live music performance are not eligible.

61 Best Song Written For Visual Media

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes excellence in songwriting for songs with melody and lyrics written specifically for and used in a motion picture, television show or series, video game, or other visual media.

In Best Song Written For Visual Media, the film version of the song may be entered, even if it is different from the version entered in other categories.

Tracks from an album released during a previous year's eligibility period are not eligible in the category. However, where a track from a visual media work is released in the current eligibility year, while the soundtrack album is not being released until the following eligibility year, the track will be eligible for GRAMMY consideration in the later year as long as it was not submitted in any category in the current year.

62 Best Instrumental Composition

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes excellence in instrumental composition. The category is open to any original non-classical composition without lyrics first released on a recording during the eligibility year, including original instrumental themes or main titles written for motion pictures or television, jazz compositions, and new composition backing spoken word entries. Instrumental compositions with "vocal coloring" are eligible. Award to the composer(s).

63 Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes excellence in instrumental arrangements on an instrumental recordings or a cappella arrangements on vocal a cappella recordings. The category is open to singles or tracks from albums released during the current eligibility year only. (Compositions that are extended suites across several tracks are eligible as long as they are clearly conceived and released as such.) Award to the arranger(s).

An arrangement is the organization of structure, rhythm, melodies, and harmonies for instruments and/or voices into a cohesive performance piece or recording. An arrangement can be a development, enhanced adaptation or a considerable reworking of an original composition and may include the use of dynamics, modulations, tempo variations, improvisation, and various textures.

An instrumental recording with "vocal coloring" is eligible. A vocal arrangement with "instrumental coloring" is eligible.

No arranger may be entered more than twice in the same arranging category, whether for instrumental or vocal arrangement, for arranging entries accompanying the same artist.

64 Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes excellence in arrangements that feature instrumental and vocal performance in any combination. The category is open to singles or tracks from albums released during the current eligibility year only. (Compositions that are extended suites across several tracks are eligible so long as they are clearly conceived and released as such.) Award to the arranger(s).

An arrangement is the organization of structure, rhythm, melodies, and harmonies for instruments and/or voices into a cohesive performance piece or recording. An arrangement can be a development, enhanced adaptation or a considerable reworking of an original composition and may include the use of dynamics, modulations, tempo variations, improvisation, and various textures.

No arranger may be entered more than twice in the same arranging category, whether for instrumental or vocal arrangement, for arranging entries accompanying the same artist.

65 Best Recording Package

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in the field of art and packaging for albums or singles released in a standard format. Physical product in any configuration, of any genre of music, released for the first time during the eligibility year (even if recordings were previously released) is eligible provided the packaging is predominantly new. The elements judged in this category include the package design, photography and/or graphic art of the entire package as well as any materials included. Award to the art director(s).

If the album art/package has been previously released, or is being reissued with only minimal new design elements, it is not eligible.

66 Best Boxed Or Special Limited Edition Package

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in the field of art and packaging for new special edition, or limited edition, or boxed set packages in any configuration, of any genre of music, released for the first time during the eligibility year (even if recordings were previously released). The elements judged in this category include the package design, photography and/or graphic art of the entire package as well as any materials included. Award to the art director(s).

The packaging must be predominantly new: If the album art/package has been previously released, or the recording is being reissued with only minimal new design elements, it is not eligible.

Limited edition and special package releases must still meet the general distribution requirements to be eligible.

67 Best Album Notes

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in album notes writing. Entries must be one piece of original writing written for a specific album (in any genre) and released as part of that album for the first time during the eligibility year. (In the event of a collaboration where more than one writer has signed the same piece of work, a determination of eligibility will be left to the discretion of the Academy.)

Eligible notes must be of literary excellence, originality, and communicativeness and provide relevant exposition of recorded content. Each entry in the category must be predominantly original writing.

Books or booklets written for an album that are simultaneously released separately do qualify.

Notes taken from previously issued books, articles, or reviews are not eligible. Nor are album notes that are simply testimonials, transcripts of prior interviews not specifically created for the current release, brief letters of praise or congratulations.

NOTE: The physical version of the product which includes the album notes must have national commercial distribution in order to be eligible in this category unless the notes are available as part of the commercial download.

68 Best Historical Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in newly created albums in any genre that feature historically significant material with new annotation and new packaging that provide important contributions to a fresh historical perspective on the circumstances of the recording in areas of program content and technology and, where relevant, quality remastering and/or audio restoration.

Eligible entries may include previously released recordings, alternate takes, and/or previously unreleased recordings in any combination as well as old motion picture soundtracks, cast show albums and radio broadcasts.

Straight reissues of previously released albums that have no quality restoration or remastering and no changes in their sequence of tracks or packages are not eligible. Variant forms of previously GRAMMY-entered material are not eligible.

This category is not for new recordings of an historic nature or albums that are newly recorded re-creations of historic material, sessions, or events. Those albums should be entered in the appropriate genre categories.

69 Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in engineering. All the eligibly credited recording engineers, mixers/mixing engineers, and mastering engineers on a newly recorded nonclassical album released for the first time during the current eligibility year are eligible.

The basic criterion for judging should be the finished product; that is, the commercially released recording itself. In addition, the overall mix, any unique techniques, the quality of sound and the trueness of its reproduction are considered. Other factors, such as overdubbing or the number of tracks used or the site or mode of the recordings, become secondary.

70 Producer Of The Year, Non-Classical

Albums, Singles or Tracks

This category recognizes excellence in production of non-Classical audio recordings. This category is for a producer whose body of work released for the first time during the eligibility year represents consistently outstanding creativity in the area of recording production.

One album OR six tracks or singles constitute the minimum for a producer to be eligible in the category. The body of work will be up to nine projects. If the number of entries submitted exceeds the maximum of nine, the selection of which nine entries to be included will be made by the producer. Minimum qualifications may be satisfied by combining a producer's solo production credits with those as part of a team of producers .

Each producer must provide at least one eligible single or track entry producing an artist other than himself or herself to be eligible in the category.

While an individual may enter recordings that are either solo production efforts or co-production efforts, a production team must enter only projects they have worked on as a team during the eligibility year. An individual cannot appear on the ballot as both an individual and a member of a producer team.

Only recordings released in the current eligibility year are eligible in this category. Tracks from albums released in a previous year are not eligible, even if released as a single in the current year. Rereleased, reissued, and historical recordings are not eligible.

71 Best Remixed Recording

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes excellence in remixed recordings where the remixer takes previously recorded material and adds or alters in such a way as to create a new and unique performance.

Singles or tracks do not have to be commercially released for sale or streaming if they have been released to clubs or radio in the U.S. for the first time during the eligibility year.

Both the remixed version and the original version of the recording must be provided to the Academy for judging purposes.

72 Best Immersive Audio Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in multichannel immersive audio recordings. Eligible recordings must be commercially released for sale or streaming on a consumer format/configuration (DVD-Video, DVD-Audio, SACD, Blu-Ray, Atmos, Auro-3D, immersive download, etc.) that provides an original immersive mix (not electronically re-purposed) of four or more channels.

On releases that include multiple distinct mixes, entrants will be prompted to choose which immersive mix they are entering for GRAMMY consideration. Only one mix per album will be eligible.

73 Best Engineered Album, Classical

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in engineering. All the eligibly credited engineers on a newly recorded classical album released for the first time during the current eligibility year are eligible in the category.

The basic criterion for judging should be the finished product; that is, the commercially released recording itself. In addition, the overall mix, any unique techniques, the quality of sound and the trueness of its reproduction are considered. Other factors, such as overdubbing or the number of tracks used or the site or mode of the recordings, become secondary. Any appraisal of a recording should be made on the basis of the total album itself.

74 Producer Of The Year, Classical

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in production of classical audio recordings. This category is for a producer whose body of work released for the first time during the eligibility year represents consistently outstanding creativity in the area of recording production.

One album is required to qualify for entry in the category. A multi-album set of a single work is considered one recording. The body of work will be up to nine projects. If the number of entries submitted exceeds the maximum of nine, the selection of which nine entries to be included will be made by the producer. Minimum qualifications may be satisfied by combining a producer's solo production credits with those as part of a team of producers.

While an individual may enter recordings that are either solo production efforts or co-production efforts, a producer team must enter only projects they have worked on as a team during the eligibility year. An individual cannot appear on the ballot as both an individual and a member of a producer team.

Only recordings released in the current eligibility year are eligible in this category. Tracks from albums released in a previous year are not eligible, even if released as a single in the current year. Rereleased, reissued, and historical recordings are not eligible.

75 Best Orchestral Performance

Albums or Tracks

This category recognizes excellence in recordings of classical orchestral performance. Recordings that are predominantly orchestral in performance and intent by large ensembles of 25 or more, regardless of instrumentation, are eligible. The recordings may include incidental vocal elements.

If one or more orchestral works are coupled with a solo or chamber recording, only the orchestral portion is eligible in this category.

Concertos with solo instrumental performances are eligible in Best Classical Instrumental Solo only.

The orchestral organization is not considered a nominee, only a statuette winner.

76 Best Opera Recording

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums of complete opera recordings. (Opera highlights albums, recordings of opera arias, recital repertoire, and albums of vocal solos or choral numbers extracted from complete operas are not eligible.)

Both audio-only and audio-video (DVD) entries are eligible; but in the latter case, only the audio portion is considered.

NOTE: Opera highlights albums and recordings of opera arias and recital repertoire are not eligible. Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

77 Best Choral Performance

Albums or Tracks

This category recognizes excellence in recordings of classical choral performance. Choral ensembles comprised of 16 or more vocalists, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by any number of instrumentalists, with or without conductor, singing in unison or multiple parts are eligible in this category. Choral numbers, operatic or otherwise, qualify only if they have been recorded as separate productions and are not extracted from a complete work.

Choral performances extracted from opera or symphonic recordings are not eligible.

The choral organization is not considered a nominee, only a statuette winner.

78 Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance

Albums or Tracks

This category recognizes excellence in classical chamber music and small ensemble performance recordings. Instrumental, vocal or mixed instrumental/vocal groups, with or without conductor are eligible as long as the number of instrumental, vocal, or mixed instrumental/vocal group participants does not exceed 24, not including the conductor.

Choral ensembles comprised of 16 or more vocalists, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by any number of instrumentalists, with or without conductor are eligible in Best Choral Performance only.

NOTE: Track entries in the Classical field must be complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

79 Best Classical Instrumental Solo

Albums or Tracks

For newly recorded solo performances with or without accompaniment. This category recognizes excellence in classical instrumental solo recordings, including concertos and concerto-style works (including multi-instrumental concertos).

NOTE: Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

80 Best Classical Solo Vocal Album

Albums Only

This category recognizes excellence in albums of classical solo vocal recordings. Eligible albums may contain song literature, operatic arias, vocal cycles (i.e., multmovement works) and/or other types of vocal music, with one or more collaborating artists such as accompanists, chamber ensembles, choruses and orchestras, with or without conductor. Multiple soloists are eligible in this category.

Arias, operatic or otherwise, qualify only if they are recorded as separate productions and not extracted from a complete work.

81 Best Classical Compendium

Albums Only

This category recognizes albums of classical music recordings developed and united by an artist, composer, tribute, thematic idea, musical or other unifying concept, including crossover albums that contain greater than 50% classical material.

Albums may include historic, spoken, and/or documentary material, as long as these are in service of the album concept and do not exceed 50% of the total playing time. Albums entered in Classical Compendium may not be entered in other classical categories; however, individual tracks from Compendium entries may be eligible in other classical categories.

82 Best Contemporary Classical Composition

Albums or Tracks

This category recognizes excellence in contemporary Classical composition. It is open to original Classical compositions, including newly composed operas, composed within the last 25 years and released on a recording for the first time during the eligibility year. Eligible compositions must be individual works and world premiere recordings. Classical motion picture and television compositions are eligible here. Audio-video (DVD) of new operas are eligible, but only the audio portion is considered.

New versions, arrangements, suites, transcriptions, re-orchestrations, remixes and/or any other types of variants of pre-existing compositions are not eligible.

The full-length score on PDF must be submitted with each entry for this category.

83 Best Music Video

Videos Only

This category recognizes excellence in music videos. Music videos released online during the current eligibility year, and that are synchronous or predominantly synchronous to a commercially released recording are eligible as long as they are recognized by the artist and /or the record label as the official video for an individual track.

Entrant must provide a streaming link via YouTube or Vimeo to the music video. The link must remain active through the final voting period.

Fan videos or re-edits that are not recognized by the artist and/or the record label as the official video are not eligible. Nor are multitrack videos or visual albums (such works are eligible in Best Music Film). Individual videos taken from video album packages that were eligible in a previous year are not eligible.

A GRAMMY nomination in a performance category does not affect the eligibility of an eligibly released music video of the same recording in the following year(s).

84 Best Music Film

Videos Only

This category recognizes excellence in concert/performance films or music documentaries released for sale to the public for the first time or first appearing on television or online during the current eligibility year. This category includes music-related documentaries with a preponderance of performance-based material and individual music videos that together create a visual album (if videos are packaged and entered together as one cohesive film). While dramatic feature films and biopics are not eligible, films with fictional elements are eligible.

Episodes from television/online series, award shows, music competition shows, fictional music films and musical biopics are not eligible as music films. Nor are re-edited or repackaged old (more than five years from release date) programs, concert films in which the concert was recorded more than five years ago (older concert footage may be used in music documentaries), compilations of music videos by various artists, or any video films or promotional clips that were eligible in a previous eligibility year or compilations of such. The addition of bonus material to an otherwise ineligible music film does not make the release eligible.

Entrants must provide an active streaming link on web platform or movie files on data disc, flash drive, DVD or DVD-R. (Digital master file is a Quicktime.mov codec. HD Apple Pro Res 422 QuickTime file preferred. Native frame rate (usually 23.98 or 29.97 fps) and at a dimension of 1920x1080 or 1280x720.)

A GRAMMY nomination does not affect the eligibility of an eligibly released music film of the same recording in the following year(s).